Spending If! Modest In Race for Pike Seat

By Amanda Harris

The 10 men campaigning to succeed Rep. Otis Pike CD-Riverhead) have ,spent a total of more than $184,000, considerably less than the lavish sums predicted by political experts last spring.

Estimates had run to $75,000 per candidate in primary contests, but according to financial records filed with the Federal Election Commission, only Steven Klar, a Democratic contender, is approaching that figure.,

"The money's being spread too thin," said Jim Teese, campaign manager for Jack Hart, a Republican. Several campaign workers said the crowded field and competition from candidates for governor had teduced contributions to Congressional candidates.

As of Aug. 28, Klar, one of five Democrats running in next Tuesday's primary, had raised $60,370 and spent $49,415. The candidate contributed all of the total but about $5,000 raised from close friends and business associat.es, according to Ron Klar, the candidate's brother and campaign manager.

"Steve felt it was his responsibility to establish himself as a viable candidate before asking others for contributions," Ron Klar said. "That money literally wipes him out: his savings and all liquid assets. He sold his car . . . We've had to build our own organization, but Steve didn't pay anyone anything and doesn't owe anyone anything." Most of Klar's money has been spent on mailings, a telephoning operation, ads.and $14,000 in pre-campaign planning, including a $5,000 poll, Klar said.

Republican Jay Radway has raised $47,760 and spent $46,141. Like Klar, much of it was Radway's own money. Radway's financial records show that he received donations from several Manhattan and East End residents, including $500 from actress Dina Merrill and $95 from Stuyvesant Wainwright ll, who preceded Pike in Congress. Radway has spent his money on a paid staff, radio ads, and last May $525 on speaking lessons.

Republican James Catterson has raised $30,865 and spent $19,312. Half of the contributions are from Catterson himse1£ The other largest gift was $1,000 from the Lent for Congress Committee, representing Rep. Norman Lent (R.-East Rockaway). William Carney, a Conservative running for the Republican designation, has raised and spent about $28,000, including $11,500 of his own money.

Camey has received $1,000 donations from Stuart Avrick, former Suffolk Conservative chairman; Citizens for the Republic, a conservative group in Orange County, Calif.; the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, another conservative group; and the New York Republican Congressional Campaign Committee; and $300 from the Coors Beer Political Action Committee.

Records also show that Camey received and refunded a $500 check from James Durning and Myron B. Levy, developers of the duty-free foreign trade zone in Westhampton. George Fey, Camey's spokesman, said last night that Camey returned the check after the developers bulldozed 20 acres of ecologically important pine barrens without approval from Southampton. Democrat John Randolph, Brookhaven town supervisor, has raised $20,685 and spent $14,281. Randolph's largest contributors are labor unions, including $1,000 from the Brooklyn Longshoremen, $1,000 from the Seafarers Union in Brooklyn, $1,500 from the United Auto Workers and $1,500 from the Communications Workers of America. Randolph also recieved $600 from Richard Freidah of the Smith-Freidah Insurance Agency, which received Brookhaven's insurance contract last January.

The other candidates are running more modest campaigns. Republican Jack Hart has raised $17,254 and spent $14,896. Democrat Patrick Russell has raised $5,369 and spent $5,260. Democrat John Minto has raised $2,278 and spent $2,268 and Republican Sal Nicosia has raised $1,143 and spent $966.